

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant thanks Examiner Cao again for the careful examination of this application and for the clear explanation of the claim rejections. In response to the Office action, applicant amends claims 16 and 18; cancels claim 17; and inserts new claim 23.

Claim 16

New limitations are added to claim 16 that are not disclosed in either the Fukasawa patent or the Ochiai patent:

1. the sidewall of the slot is limited to include a portion of a sphere with a diameter greater than the openings of the slot on the surface of the substrate; and
2. the ball in the slot is limited to have a diameter greater than the openings of the slot on the surface of the substrate.

Contrarily, the Fig. 1 of the Fukasawa patent depicts a slot that is cylindrical, which means the side wall is vertical to the surfaces and is not a portion of any sphere, and the ball in the slot is depicted to have a diameter smaller than the openings of the slot. In the Ochiai patent, the Fig. 1C depicts a film with slots that do not have openings on both surfaces of the film; and because the sidewall is made of <111> planes, each of which is necessarily flat and not a portion of a sphere; and the ball in the slot does not have a diameter greater than the opening.

Because the Fukasawa patent and the Ochiai patent both do not disclose all the limitations in claim 16, applicant respectfully submits that they do not anticipate claim 16 and claim 16 stands patentable over the references.

Claim 18-22

Claim 18-22 properly depend from claim 16 and stand patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

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Claim 18

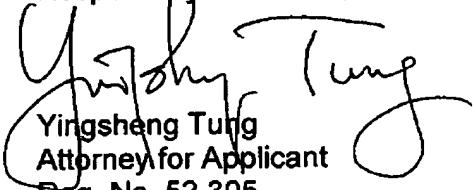
Applicant amends claim 18 to describe the invention more clearly without change the scope of the claim.

Claim 23

New claim 23 further limits the side wall of the slot to have two portions - a first portion of a sphere with a diameter greater than the first diameter and a second portion of a sphere with a diameter greater than the second diameter. This limitation is not disclosed in any of the references cited in the Office action; applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 stands patentable.

In summary, applicant respectfully submits that this amended application is now in allowable form; the pending claims 16, 18-23 stand patentable because the cited references fail to disclose all the limitations in the claims. Applicant respectfully requests further examination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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